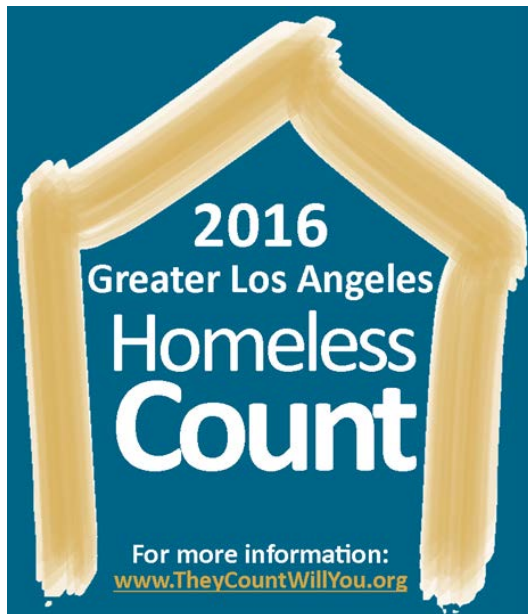


## Volunteer for the Greater Los Angeles Point-In-Time Homeless Count

By Mark Parra, Health Program Analyst II



Every other year the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority undertakes the coordination of the Greater Los Angeles Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Homeless Count. This is a massive effort that makes a substantial difference in the lives of residents that are homeless by identifying who they are, and where they reside, which supports the ultimate goal of helping them to become permanently housed. The data gathered from the count further assists homeless service providers and consortia to assess how and where homeless persons can best be served and what resources are required to provide them with the support they need.

Professionally, as a staff member at Countywide Housing, Employment and Education Resource Development (CHEERD) Division, analyzing data reports and program outcomes pertaining to how our DMH services assist individuals and families that are

homeless keeps me abreast of the challenges we as a public agency face in housing the approximately 45,000 persons that are homeless here in Los Angeles County on any given night. Personally, I felt that I wanted to connect the work that I do with something more tangible, something that made a difference in a way that would further my commitment to be of service. For this reason, I first volunteered to assist with the Homeless Count in 2009, an opportunity which helped provide a face and a human story to each of the statistics that come across my desk, and to remind me that we must band together as a community to help end homelessness.

You are encouraged to make a difference by volunteering to support this effort which will roll out over three days in various areas of the County, from January 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. All volunteers will be fully-trained and can be assigned to count homeless individuals in the communities they are most familiar with—for instance, I was assigned to an eight-block area in the area near my home.

# DMH e\*News

January 14, 2016



*Photo provided by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)*

Help promote the Count by sending [promotional materials](#) to your colleagues, friends and family members.

## 2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Schedule:

**Tuesday, January 26, 2016 (evening)**

San Gabriel Valley, East Los Angeles County

**Wednesday, January 27, 2016 (evening)**

San Fernando Valley, West Los Angeles, South Bay/Harbor

**Thursday, January 28, 2016 (morning)**

Antelope Valley

**Thursday, January 28, 2016 (evening)**

Metro Los Angeles, South Los Angeles

Simply go to <http://www.theycountwillyou.org/> to register.  
Help make a difference!